



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2011

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Stephens City Newsletter is proud to enter its 30th year of existence. Throughout the year we will highlight the significance of this Town Newsletter. The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

Christmas on the Commons



The Christmas on the Commons was another huge success. The Town would like to thank the Stephens City Business Association for making this event possible. It was great having Sherando Band provide a brass ensemble and the Aylor Band performing a Christmas concert. Between the decorating of ornaments, getting some fresh baked goodies, the warming by the fire, and with the magic of a certain special guest, a good time was had by all. We're looking forward to the 4th annual event next year!



VIEWS FROM THE PAST 2011 STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA



Newtown Heritage Festival presents:

**2011 "Views from the Past"
Calendars
\$6.00 each**

*Get yours while supplies last at
surrounding businesses and the
Town Office*



*Recycled Christmas
Trees will be picked
up on Tuesday,
January 4th and 11th,
2011*

*From all of the Town
Council, Appointed
Officials and Staff of
Stephens City, we
wish you and yours a
joyous and
prosperous New
Year!*



SNOW REMOVAL

It's hard to tell what lies ahead for this winter. It is our hope that we do not have the type of winter we had last year, but we have already had two winter weather events. With that in mind we thought it might a good time to remind all the citizens about their responsibilities with regard to snow removal.

Property owners or occupants must clear all public sidewalks of snow where sidewalks front their property. This must be done within 6 hours after snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight. Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions.



ADDRESSES

The Town Staff has concluded a survey of homes, businesses and any other public locations where street address numbers are to be displayed for emergency 911 purposes. Property owners will be notified to post their street address in accordance with the Town Code. If you have not already done so, please make sure that your street address is visible from the street. Should you have any questions, please contact the Town Office and speak to Town Manager, Michael Kehoe.



Business Licenses

Business licenses are to be renewed after January 1, 2011 through March 1, 2011. Renewal forms will be mailed to existing license holders. The cost of the business license is based on gross receipts or a minimum of \$15. **Please be sure to have your gross receipt records** available when applying for your license. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call our office at 869-3087. Business and equipment taxes must be paid before licenses are renewed.

**We appreciate
YOUR BUSINESS!**

Town Clerk,
Dianne L. MacMillan

Frozen Water Lines

Most of the time the first place to check for a frozen water line is an exposed drafty area beneath or within your home or business. Find and be aware of where the cutoff valve is within your home. **Do not open a water meter box** unless you have contacted the Town. Town water meters are insulated and not prone to freezing.

If you have a problem with frozen water lines, during office hours you may call 540-869-3087, after hours contact 540-662-6162.



Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **Thursday, December 28, 2010** and **are due upon receipt.**

After **February 7, 2011** a **10% penalty** will be added. On Monday, **February 14, 2011** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full

amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Water/Sewer bills can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard. If you pay a

bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

Reminder:

DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE DROP BOX!

From the Town Manager's Desk...

Budget News:

The end of December marked the half way point in the 2010-2011 fiscal year which ends on June 30th, 2011.

The budget as adopted totals \$1,850,800 which includes grant revenues as well as the general and utility funds.

As of the end of December the Town is about where it should be with revenue and expenditures. The forecast for the rest of the year remains the same.

General fund revenues and expenditures remain at 35% and 40% respectively. Utility revenues average 40% and expenditures average about 37%.

The budget becomes more balanced after the first of the year when the December sales tax is distributed and the annual business and corporation taxes are received.

In other budget news the Town Finance Committee is considering reforming the time that real estate and personal property tax bills are sent out and collected. Among the options is the proposed return to once a year billing with a due date on December 5th. Another option being considered is stick with twice annual billing but change the dates to July or August and January or February.

Before any changes are to be made, public hearings will be held. Your input as a citizen is vital to this decision for our elected officials and your preference to once a year or twice a year taxation for real estate and personal property tax. There will be more information to come. Stay tuned.

Mike Kehoe
Town Manager

The Planner's Corner...

Resolutions...

Every year at this time we set forth our New Years Resolutions to get us on track to quit a bad habit or improve ourselves. If these resolutions worked half as great as they sound would we find ourselves making new resolutions the following year? Something to think about.

Personally I am no different, although I have taken to making goals for myself instead of resolutions and as I look ahead at upcoming year in Stephens City, I have done the same.

It is my personal goal as your Town Planner to continue to have an open door and take every opportunity to assist any resident that may have questions about planning or economic development within the Town or even outside the Town. Furthermore, I intend to continue to grow our planning program within the Town.

Another point I try to follow when setting goals for the New Year is to intermix goals that are very attainable and goals that raise the bar high. For me personally this allows you success and yet keeps you pushing yourself to achieve the highest standards.

In planning we will be wrapping up the Comprehensive Plan Update as well as a major re-organization of the Zoning Ordinance with the Planning Commission as well as beginning construction on the North Main Street Enhancement Project.

2011 will bring us new challenges and adventures however by planning for it and setting goals for implementation we just might make all of our New Years Resolutions foot-prints for success!

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw, Town Planner

Town Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Jan.	4	Town Council at 7:30pm
Jan.	6	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Foundation 7:30pm
Jan.	11	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Jan.	17	Town Office Closed– Martin Luther King Day
Jan.	18	Historic Preservation Commission at 5:00pm
Jan.	20	Water/ Sewer meeting at 5:30 pm Public Works meeting at 6:00 pm
Jan.	24	Parks and Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
Jan.	25	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
Jan.	26	Finance Committee at 5:00pm

We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

FEBRUARY

Feb.	1	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm.
Feb..	3	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Foundation -7:30pm
Feb..	7	Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
Feb.	14	Water Shut Off Date Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
Feb.	15	Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm
Feb.	17	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:30pm Public Works Meeting at 6:00pm Newtown Heritage Festival Mtg. at 7:00pm
Feb.	21	Town Office Closed– Presidents Day
Feb.	22	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
Feb.	23	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
Feb..	28	Parks & Recreation Commission at 5:00pm

** All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

The Business Spotlight!

The Businesses of the Stephens City Business Association would like to wish all the residents of the Town of Stephens City a Happy New Year! The Business Association is looking forward to a year full of events that will include the Stephens City Business Expo this Spring, hopefully the 3rd Annual "Hop in at the Commons" and believe it or not, the 4th Annual "Christmas at the Commons" in December of this year. The Business Association has steadily been growing and has been working on ways to better serve you as a community.

Remember, all businesses within the area are part of the Business Association and are welcomed and encouraged to participate in all Business Association activities. When it comes to life's needs and necessities or that perfect gift for someone special, think LOCAL! Everything you need is right here in Stephens City, so visit a local business today!

We look forward to seeing you!

